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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A printing system for use in printing image objects of any of a plurality of different object types, said system comprising:

a printer, including a set of printer and media specific imaging actions, specific to the printer and to its supported media, for printing image objects; and

a printer control device with a user interface having a first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected object type to be printed by said printer;

wherein a printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprises an instruction for indicating a feature of an image object to be preserved during rendering which is both printer-independent and media independent; and

wherein each printer-independent print-quality characteristic has associated with it at least one printer specific imaging actions from the set of printer specific imaging actions for printing the selected object type.

2.   (Original)   The printing system of claim 1, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a control for invoking said first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected object type to be printed by said printer.

3.   (Currently Amended)   The printing system of claim 1, wherein said user interface further includes a second option for associating object descriptors with a selected object type, wherein an object descriptor comprises at least one parameter for further defining an object type and wherein, responsive to selection of an object descriptor, said second option associates printer-independent print-quality characteristics

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with said selected object descriptor.

4. (Original) The printing system of claim 3, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a first control for invoking an option of automatically associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics in accordance with a set of predetermined associations and a second control for manually associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics.

5. (Original) The printing system of claim 3, further comprising a third option for defining a custom object descriptor.

6. (Original) The printing system of claim 4, further comprising a third option for saving a set of associations.

7. (Original) The printing system of claim 6, further comprising a fourth option for selecting a default configuration of associations.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the quality of printing by a printer of a composite document having different types of objects, comprising:

in a user interface:

providing a list of object types; and

providing a list of printer-independent print-quality characteristics, wherein a printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprises a guide for indicating a feature of an image object to be preserved during rendering which is both printer-independent and media independent;

responsive to a user selecting an object type from the list of object types; and

a user associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristic with the selected object type to be printed by said printer; and

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associating the selected printer-independent print-quality characteristic with at least one printer and media specific imaging actions from a set of printer specific imaging actions specific to the printer and to its supported media for printing the selected object type.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

providing a list of object descriptors, wherein an object descriptor comprises at least one parameter for defining an object type;

selecting an object descriptor; and

associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristics with said selected object descriptor.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

defining a custom object descriptor;

adding the custom object descriptor to the list of object descriptors; and

associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristics with said custom object descriptor.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising saving a set of associations.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising loading said saved set of associations.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising providing a default configuration of associations.

14. (New) The printing system of claim 1, wherein a printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprises one of "make sharp edges", "reduce

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mottle", "distinguish neighboring colors", "reduce moiré", "distinguish tone and edges", "maximum tone depth", "perceptual colors", "contour", "no abutting corners", "increase moiré", "uniform gloss", "distinctness" and "compress without loss of detail".

15.   (New)   The method of claim 8, wherein a printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprises one of "make sharp edges", "reduce mottle", "distinguish neighboring colors", "reduce moiré", "distinguish tone and edges", "maximum tone depth", "perceptual colors", "contour", "no abutting corners", "increase moiré", "uniform gloss", "distinctness" and "compress without loss of detail".

16.   (New)   The printing system of claim 3, wherein an object descriptor comprises one of type, size, color and location.

17.   (New)   The method of claim 9, wherein an object descriptor comprises one of type, size, color and location.

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